UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

CHRISTOPHER SANTOS :

VS. : C.A. No. 09-348 S

:

:

CITY OF PROVIDENCE, through its Treasurer,
Stephen T. Napolitano; MATTHEW JEANETTE,
ROBERT PAPA, VINCENT PAZZETTA, and
FRANK NEWTON, individually and in their official
capacities as Providence Police Officers, and
DEAN ESSERMAN, individually and in his official
capacity as Chief, Providence Police Department

PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM

Pursuant to the Order of this Court, Plaintiff submits his Pretrial Memorandum.

I. PROOF

The Plaintiff, Mr. Santos, a resident of Southbridge, Massachusetts, had visited the City of Providence accompanied by several friends and acquaintances, intending to go to a club on Pine Street, to celebrate a birthday. Mr. Santos and his party are Hispanic. They had rented a stretch limousine for the occasion. When their vehicle dropped them off, Mr. Santos was approached by a Providence Police Officer, later identified as Defendant Jeannette, who belligerently demanded identification. Mr. Santos inquired as to why the officer wanted identification. The officer refused to respond. The officer then went to the bouncer and began speaking to him, pointing at Mr. Santos.

Ultimately, the bouncer then refused Mr. Santos and the rest of his party admission. When Mr. Santos and his party decided to go into the club next door, they were informed by Officer Jeannette that they could not enter that club, either. Officer Jeannette used profanity with the Plaintiff and the party, and made references to Mr. Santos' racial background. Mr.

Santos and his party then decided to proceed down Pine Street to determine if there were any other clubs in the vicinity where he and his party could spend the evening instead. When Mr. Santos was passing by the Public Defender's Office, he was tackled from behind by Officer Jeannette and/or his fellow officers, Officer Papa and Officer Pazetta. As a result, Mr. Santos' hand was forced through the plate glass window of the Public Defender's Office, seriously lacerating his hand. The officers continued to beat Mr. Santos while he was down. One officer was smoking a cigar while laughing with the other officers, and stepping on Mr. Santos' head. Mr. Santos' companions, Wilmer Perez and Jashua Torres, suffered similar treatment despite the fact that none of them had provoked the officers in any way. The officers repeatedly made remarks such as: "You're in my city now," and "This is my fucking city," and "You don't belong in my city."

Mr. Santos' hand bled profusely as a result of its being shoved through a window. When he was taken to the police station, Mr. Santos requested medical attention. Instead, another Providence Police Officer, Officer Newton, slapped him to the floor while he was on his knees on the floor, handcuffed.

Mr. Santos was later charged with disorderly conduct. He was also charged with vandalism/malicious injury to property – specifically, for breaking the window that his hand was forced through. His companions would receive similar criminal charges, which were resolved conditioned upon their dropping their complaints against the City. Mr. Santos' case was tried before the Sixth Division Court. After the City had presented its case, Mr. Santos moved for and was granted a judgment of acquittal pursuant to Rule 48(a).

A. Assault and Battery

The Plaintiff has brought four separate counts of assault and battery. Counts I and II have been brought against Defendants Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta with respect to the incidents taking place on Pine Street. To sustain a claim of assault, the Plaintiff must show that there was a physical act of a threatening nature or offer of corporal injury which put him in fear of imminent bodily harm. *State v. Cardona*, 969 A.2d 667, 674 (R.I. 2009). To sustain a claim of battery, the Plaintiff must demonstrate that there was an act that was intended to cause, and did cause, an offensive contact with unconsented touching of his person. *Id.* A police officer certainly has a right to use force, but only to the extent that that use of force is reasonable. *Tessier v. LaNois*, 97 R.I. 414 198 A.2d 142 (1964); *Sheehan v. West*, 27 R.I. 84 (1904).

Even assuming *arguendo* that Defendants Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta had reasonable cause to attempt to take Plaintiff into custody, Plaintiff can demonstrate that these Defendants used force far exceeding that which was reasonable. Plaintiff will testify that he was tackled from behind, forcing his hand through the window of the Public Defender's office. Plaintiff will also testify that he offered no resistance to arrest. Plaintiff will also testify, with corroboration from other witnesses, that the Defendants continued to strike him and his companions even when they were clearly not in a position to offer resistance. These actions culminated in one officer's smoking a cigar with his foot on Plaintiff's head.

Counts III and IV have been brought against Defendant Frank Newton with respect to his conduct at the Providence Police station when slapping Plaintiff to the

ground. Plaintiff – relying on both eyewitnesses *and* the Providence Police Department's own surveillance videotape – can demonstrate that this action was wholly unjustified.

That tape clearly demonstrates that Plaintiff was handcuffed, on his knees, in clear distress, and not even remotely in a position to threaten Defendant Newton in any way.

B. False Arrest

Plaintiff also brought a claim of false arrest against Defendants Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta (Count V). To sustain a claim of false arrest, the Plaintiff must show that he was confined, that he was aware of the confinement, that he had not consented to that confinement, that the confinement was intentional, and that it was without legal justification or otherwise privileged. *See Dyson v. City of Pawtucket*, 670 A.2d 233, 239 (R.I. 1996). Malice is not a necessary element of this claim. *Powers v. Carvalho*, 368 A.2d 1242, 1246 (R.I. 1977).

Plaintiff shall produce evidence that these Defendants lacked legal justification to place him under arrest because there was no probable cause to believe that he was committing any crime. Defendants' own testimony demonstrates that they were unable to identify any conduct of the Plaintiff supporting a charge of disorderly conduct.

Plaintiff also will present evidence that the officers could not have had probable cause to support a charge of vandalism, since they themselves had shoved him into the window that he was charged with breaking. Even if some other individual had done the shoving, the police admitted that they had not seen the window get broken, and could not explain how it happened. This contradicted statements in their report that they had observed Plaintiff break the window.

C. Malicious Prosecution

Plaintiff also brought claims of malicious prosecution against Defendants

Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta (Count VI). To sustain a claim of malicious prosecution,
the Plaintiff must show that the Defendants instituted legal proceedings with malice and
want of probable cause. *Id.* To support this claim, Plaintiff relies upon the same
evidence as he proffers in support of his false imprisonment claim. Plaintiff also believes
that the circumstances support an inference that Defendants acted maliciously in pursuing
these false charges against Plaintiff, in order to shield themselves from the consequences
of their own wrongdoing.

D. Abuse of Process

Plaintiff has also brought a claim of abuse of process against Defendants

Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta (Count VII). An abuse of process arises where a legal proceeding, although set in motion in proper form, becomes a vehicle to promote an ulterior, wrongful purpose for which it was not designed. *See Butera v. Boucher*, 798

A.2d 340, 353 (R.I. 2002). Plaintiff relies upon the same evidence in support of this claim as he does for his claim of malicious prosecution.

E. Racial Harrassment/Intimidation

Plaintiff has also brought a claim of racial harassment/intimidation against

Defendants Jeannette, and Papa (Count IX). To sustain this claim, Plaintiff must
establish that these Defendants subjected Plaintiff to acts that would ".. reasonably be
construed as intended to harass or intimidate the person because of his or her race, . . . or
national origin." Plaintiff can clearly establish the harassment and intimidation element.

¹Plaintiff will withdraw this claim against Defendant Newton.

In addition, Plaintiff can also produce direct evidence regarding the Defendants' remarks during the incidents on the corner of Pine dealing directing with his race.

F. Violation of R.I.G.L. § 31-21.2-1 et seq. (Racial Profiling)

Plaintiff has also brought a claim against Defendants Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta under R.I.G.L. § 31-21.2 et seq., alleging that he was targeted due to his race. To establish this claim, he must show that he suffered: "detention, interdiction or other disparate treatment of an individual on the basis, in whole or in part, of the racial or ethnic status of such individual, except when such status is used in combination with other identifying factors seeking to apprehend a specific suspect whose racial or ethnic status is part of the description of the suspect, which description is timely and reliable." Plaintiff relies upon the same evidence for this count as he relies in support of his claim of racial/national origin intimidation.

G. Denial of Due Process in Violation of 42 U.S.C. §1983 (Excessive Force)

Plaintiff has brought a count under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against the Defendants

Jeannette, Pazzetta, Papa, and Newton, alleging a violation of the Fourth Amendment

(Count XI). To establish his claim against the individual Defendants, Plaintiff must show that: 1) Defendants acted under color of state law; 2) that Plaintiff was deprived of federally protected rights, privileges, or immunities, and 3) Defendants' conduct was causally connected to Plaintiffs' deprivation. *See Siaca v. Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados de Puerto Rico*, 160 F.Supp.2d 188, 199 (D.P.R. 2001).

Undisputably, Defendants, all Providence patrolmen, acted under color of state law. The use of excessive force to effect an arrest also effects a Fourth Amendment violation. *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 109 S.Ct. 1865, 104 L.Ed.2d. 443 (1989).

To support his allegations of excessive force, Plaintiff relies upon the same evidence upon which he uses to support his assault and battery claims against these Defendants.

H. Denial of Due Process in Violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Fourteenth Amendment)

Plaintiff will withdraw this count.

I. Denial of Due Process in Violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Equal Protection)

Plaintiff has also brought a count under 42 U.S.C § 1983 against Defendants Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa, alleging violation of his rights to Equal Protection pursuant to the Fourteenth Amendment. Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that their conduct was motivated by his race. In order to support this claim, the Plaintiff will need to establish that these Defendants acted in an intentionally discriminatory manner. Reese v. Jefferson Sch. Dist. No. 14J, 208 F.3d 736, 740 (9th Cir. 2000). An individual acts in with discriminatory intent where he or she acted at least in part due to the adverse effect on the disfavored group. Hayden v. Grayson, 134 F.3d 449, 453 (1st Cir. 1998). Plaintiff will establish this with the same evidence that he will use to support his claims of racial harassment/intimidation and racial profiling.

J. **Negligent Training/Supervision**

Plaintiff has brought a claim of negligent training/supervision against the Defendants, Chief Dean Esserman and the City of Providence. The Plaintiff will withdraw this claim.

II PROPOSED WITNESSES AND EXHIBITS

Plaintiff's list of proposed witnesses and exhibits are attached.

III. PROBABLE LENGTH OF TRIAL

Plaintiff anticipates that the trial will last five to seven days.

IV. JURY INSTRUCTIONS

See attached.

Respectfully submitted, Plaintiff, By his attorneys,

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the within document has been electronically filed with the Court on <u>December 15, 2010</u>, that it is available for viewing and downloading from the ECF system, and that the counsel of record listed below will receive notice via the ECF system:

Michael J. Colucci, Esq. Olenn & Penza, LLP 530 Greenwich Avenue Warwick, RI 02886

Kevin McHugh, Esq. City of Providence, Law Department 275 Westminster Street Providence, RI 02903

/s/ Vicki J. Bejma

EXHIBIT LIST

Plaintiff contemplates offering the following exhibits at trial:

- 1. Photos, Richmond/Pine Streets: These photographs will be produced to assist the jury in understanding the setting in which Plaintiff was attacked by Defendants Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa.
- 2. Detail Police Report: This Report of the Providence Police describes the incidents on the night in question.
- 3. Surveillance Photos, Providence Police station. This will show Defendant Newton striking the Plaintiff while he was handcuffed, on the floor, on his knees.
- 4. Criminal complaint: This exhibit demonstrates that criminal charges were brought against Plaintiff.
- 5. Photographs, Christopher Santos: These photographs depict the injuries done to Plaintiff's hand.
- 6. Medical Records, Roger Williams Hospital: This exhibit demonstrates medical treatment given to Plaintiff.
- 7. Medical Records, Harrington Memorial Hospital: This exhibit demonstrates medical treatment given to Plaintiff.
- 8. Wage and hour records, Rubens Transportation: This exhibit supports Plaintiff's claims of lost wages.
- 9. Records of Dr. Mark Stewart: This exhibit demonstrates medical treatment given to Plaintiff.
- 10. Records of Dr. Raymond Dunn: This exhibit demonstrates medical evaluation of the Plaintiff.
- 11. Sixth Division District Court Trial Record: This record, including testimony from Defendants Jeannette and Papa, demonstrates that Plaintiff was acquitted of the criminal charges against him pursuant to a District Court Rule 48(a) motion to acquit.

Exhibits 12 through 41 provide further corroboration Plaintiff's account of the subject incident, including eyewitness testimony:

- 12. Deposition of Derek Garcia
- 13. Internal Affairs Investigation Log

- 14. Internal Affairs Complaint of Jashua Torres, a/k/a Felix Alejandro
- 15. Transcript of 7/2/2008 Torres Statement to Internal Affairs
- 16. Deposition of Jashua Torres
- 17. Affidavit, Felix Alejandro
- 18. Affidavit of Wilmer Perez
- 19. Internal Affairs Complaint of Wilmer Perez
- 20. Transcript of 7/2/08 Perez statement to Internal Affairs
- 21. Deposition of Giselt Marie Melendez
- 22. Deposition of Dimayra Colon
- 23. Deposition of Patrolman Virak In
- 24. Deposition of Christopher Santos
- 25. Santos Internal Affairs complaint
- 26. Transcript of 7/2/08 Santos statement to Internal Affairs
- 27. Santos complaint to Providence External Review Authority
- 28. Santos Response to Interrogatories
- 29. 10/8/08 statement of Virak In to Internal Affairs
- 30. 11/24/08 statement of Frank Newton to Internal Affairs
- 31. 11/17/08 notice to Frank Newton re complaint investigation
- 32. 76/27/08 Internal Affairs Interrogation Rights form (Newton)
- 33. Responses to Interrogatories, Frank Newton
- 34. Deposition of Patrolman Frank A. Newton
- 35. Deposition of Vincent A. Pazzetta
- 36. Pazzetta's Responses to Interrogatories

- 37. Deposition of Patrolman Matthew Jeannette
- 38. Matthew Jeannette's responses to interrogatories
- 39. Robert Papa's Responses to Interrogatories
- 40. Deposition of Patrolman Robert Papa

Exhibits 42 through 49 are offered to support Plaintiff's claim that the Defendants' actions were impermissible and/or to rebut Defendants' claims that the actions taken against him were permissible. These Exhibits will also support claims of willfulness.

- 41. Record of PERA proceedings against Robert Papa
- 42. Deposition of Inspector Frank Colon
- 43. 8/9/2007 Report re Abdur-Rasheed complaint re Jeannette
- 44. 11/7/07 Reprimand to Jeannette re Abdur-Rasheed
- 45. 9/15/09 Investigative Report re Matthew Jeannette
- 46. 7/29/08 decision of PERA re Officer Robert Papa
- 47. 7/29/08 letter of reprimand to Papa
- 48. PERA Ordinance
- 49. Providence Police Department use-of-force policy

The following exhibits will be used in support of the claims of punitive damages against the Defendants, with respect to their financial condition:

- 50. Providence Police contract
- 51. Providence Police recruitment brochure

WITNESSES

- 1. Christopher Santos: The Plaintiff, Christopher Santos, is expected to testify regarding the actions of the Defendants on the night in question. He is also expected to testify regarding the damages that he has suffered as a result.
- 2. Jashua Torres: Mr. Torres, a/k/a Felix Alejandro, was an eyewitness to the treatment that Defendants Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa dealt to Plaintiff while taking him into custody, and also to that dealt out to Plaintiff by Defendant Newton while at the Providence Police station. Mr. Torres will also testify that he, too, suffered similar treatment from Defendants Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa, but that he was offered a plea bargain conditioned upon dropping his complaints against the officers.
- 3. Wilmer Perez: Mr. Perez, was an eyewitness to the treatment that Defendants Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa dealt to Plaintiff while taking him into custody, and also to that dealt out to Plaintiff by Defendant Newton while at the Providence Police station. Mr. Torres will also testify that he, too, suffered similar treatment from Defendants Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa, but that he was offered a plea bargain conditioned upon dropping his complaints against the officers.
- **4. Derek Garcia:** Mr. Garcia was an eyewitness to the treatment that Defendants Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa dealt to Plaintiff while taking him into custody.
- **5. Dimayra Colon:** Ms. Colon was an eyewitness to the treatment that Defendants Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa dealt to Plaintiff while taking him into custody.
- **6.** Giselt Marie Melendez: Ms. Melendez was an eyewitness to the treatment that Defendants Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa dealt to Plaintiff while taking him into custody.

- 7. Virak In: Officer In was present at the Providence Police station when Plaintiff was being booked. He was an eyewitness to Defendant Newton's striking Plaintiff without justification.
- **8.** Keeper of the Records, Providence Police Department: It is expected that the Keeper of the Records will authenticate various records of the Providence Police Department, including, but not limited to, the surveillance tapes that depict Defendant Newton striking Plaintiff while Plaintiff was on the floor, on his knees, in handcuffs.
- 9. Keeper of the Records, Roger Williams Hospital: After his arrest, Plaintiff was taken to Roger Williams Hospital for medical attention. It is anticipated that the Keeper of the Record will authenticate records regarding his treatment.
- 10. Keeper of the Records, Harrington Memorial Hospital: After his release from by the Providence Police Department, Plaintiff followed up for further treatment at Harrington Memorial Hospital. It is anticipated that the Keeper of the Record will authenticate records regarding his treatment.
- 11. Keeper of the Records, Rubens Transportation: Ruben's was Plaintiff's employer at the time of the subject incident. It is anticipated that the Keeper of the Record will authenticate wage documentation that will support Plaintiff's claims of lost wages.
- **12. Dr. Ronald M. Stewart:** Dr. Stewart treated Plaintiff with respect to the psychological injuries that he suffered after the subject incident. It is expected that he will testify as an expert.
- **13.** Arlenis Santos: Plaintiff's mother can testify as to the psychological effect that the subject incident had upon Plaintiff.
 - **14. Dr. Raymond Dunn:** Dr. Dunn evaluated the injuries to Plaintiff's hand.

15. Inspector Colon: Inspector Colon is the head of the Providence Police Department's Internal Affairs Division. It is expected that he will testify as to procedures regarding civilian complaints and investigation thereof, and actions taken in response. It is also anticipated that he will testify as to Defendant Jeannette and Papa's previous disciplinary history.

JURY INSTRUCTIONS

42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Fourth Amendment – Excessive Force)

Generally

The plaintiff has also brought a claim under the United States Code, Title 42, Section 1983, against Defendants Jeannettte, Papa, Pazzetta, and Newton. Title 42, Section 1983 (commonly referred to as "1983") gives a person the right to bring a lawsuit for a violation of a constitutional right by a police officer acting in an official capacity.

The plaintiff alleges that Officers Jeannette, Papa, Pazzetta, and Newton violated his constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment by their use of excessive force. The Fourth Amendment reads:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

The Fourth Amendment guarantees include the right to be free of excessive force by law enforcement officers.

The right to be free from excessive force exists even where the person is being lawfully arrested.

Reasonable or Excessive Force?

A police officer is entitled to use such force as a reasonable person would think is required under the circumstances. The circumstances to be weighed include the severity of the crime the police were investigating, whether the plaintiff posed an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and whether the plaintiff was actively resisting arrest or attempting to avoid arrest by fleeing.

That the police are angry or frustrated is not a relevant factor to be considered when determining the reasonableness of use of force.

The officers' subjective intentions are not relevant to the question of whether the use of force was reasonable. In other words, it is not relevant that the officers acted out of personal malice or spite towards the plaintiff.

When determining if the officers were using reasonable force, you must first weigh whether the use of force was reasonable at all at the time that it was applied. The use of force is not reasonable if there is no need for force. It is unreasonable for an

officer to use physical force on a person who has been arrested and restrained, who is securely under the control of the police, and who is not attempting to escape.

The use of any force by officers simply because a suspect is argumentative, contentious, or vituperative is illegal. Force can only be used to overcome physical resistance or threatened force, and lack of provocation or need to use force would make any use of force excessive.

You must also consider the degree of force being used. Even if some force is justified, the amount of force actually used may be excessive.

Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 109 S.Ct. 1865, 104 L.Ed.2d 443 (1989); Headwaters Forest Defense v. County of Humbolt, 240 F.3d 1185, 1199, 1203 (9th Cir. 2000); Santos v. Gates, 287 F.3d 846 (9th Cir. 2002); Cox v. Treadway, 75 F.3d 230, 234 (6th Cir. 1996); Bauer v. Norris, 713 F.2d 408, 412 (8th Cir. 1983); Agee v. Hickman, 490 F.2d 210, 212 (8th Cir. 1974).

Reasonableness of Use of Force to Be Judged at the Moment Used

Document 25

The reasonableness or unreasonableness of force is to be judged at the moment that the force was employed.

In simpler terms, this means that the level of force that would be reasonable will change over the course of events. An officer's initial use of force may be reasonable. However, as circumstances change, continuing the level of force, or using any force at all, may no longer be reasonable. For example, an officer may have initially needed to use a certain level of force to subdue a resisting arrestee. If that suspect were to cease resistance, the officer may be required to de-escalate his or her use of force.

Jennings v. Jones, 499 F.3d 2, 12 (1st Cir. 2007)

Assault, Defined

In addition to his Section 1983 claims, the Plaintiff has brought claims of assault under Rhode Island law against Defendants Jeannette, Papa, Pazzetta, and Newton.

An assault is a physical act of a threatening nature or an offer of bodily injury that puts an individual in reasonable fear of imminent bodily harm. It is the plaintiff's apprehension of injury that renders the defendant's act compensable. Words alone are never sufficient to establish an assault. However, if words are accompanied by a physical act which increases the plaintiff's fear of imminent bodily injury, that is sufficient to establish an assault.

Proffitt v. Ricci, 463 A.2d 514 (R.I. 1983); Webbier v. Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, Inc., 105 R.I. 605, 254 A.2d 285 (1969).

Battery, Defined

The Plaintiff has also brought Rhode Island law claims of battery against Defendants Jeannette, Papa, Pazzetta, and Newton.

A battery refers to an act that was intended to cause and in fact did cause an offensive contact with or unconsented touching of or trauma upon the body of another resulting in the consummation of an assault. An intent to injure a plaintiff, however, is unnecessary in a situation in which the defendant willfully sets in motion a force that in the ordinary course causes an injury. In order to recover for a battery, a plaintiff must show that there was an offensive contact with or unconsented touching of the body of another. In order to constitute a battery, a person must intend to cause the offensive contact or unconsented touching of another person. Thus, if a person accidentally and/or inadvertently touches another individual, that would not constitute a battery.

Proffitt v. Ricci, 463 A.2d 514 (R.I. 1983).

Police Officers' Liability for Assault and Battery

Police officers acting in the course of their duties do have a right to use force, but only where the use of that force is reasonable. A police officer may be liable for assault and/or battery where he or she exceeds the level of force that is reasonable under the the circumstances.

Tessier v. LaNois, 97 R.I. 414 198 A.2d 142 (1964); Sheehan v. West, 27 R.I. 84 (1904).

False Arrest

Generally

In this case, the Plaintiff has made the claim that the Defendants, Jeannette, Pazzetta, and Papa falsely imprisoned him. Broadly speaking, when we say that a person was falsely imprisoned we say that his or her freedom to move or choose his/her location is unlawfully obstructed or restrained. In order to prevail on a claim of false imprisonment, Plaintiff must prove that:

- a) the defendant intended to confine and/or detain him;
- b) the plaintiff was conscious of the fact that he was confined or detained;
- c) the plaintiff did not consent to being confined or detained, and;
- d) the confinement or detention was not otherwise privileged.

It is an essential element of a claim for false imprisonment that the Plaintiff prove he was confined or detained without legal justification. The length of time that the plaintiff's freedom was restrained is unimportant and the defendant will be liable for false imprisonment for even a momentary confinement. Similarly, the defendant's motivation, whether good or bad, is not important.

Moody v. McElroy, 513 A.2d 5 (R.I. 1986).

Police Officer Liability

A police officer has the legal justification to perform a warrantless arrest, but only if he or she has probable cause for doing so. Probable cause exists where the facts and circumstances within the officer's knowledge would lead a reasonable person to conclude that a suspect has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime.

Dubner v. City and County of San Francisco, 266 F.3d 959, 966 (9th Cir. 2001).

Malicious Prosecution

Generally

Plaintiff has also brought a claim of malicious prosecution against the Defendants, Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta. In order to prove his claim against the Defendants, the Plaintiff must show that these Defendants instituted legal proceedings against him without legal justification, with malice.

Dyson v. City of Pawtucket, 670 A.2d 233, 239 (R.I. 1996).

Police Officer Liability

A police officer who deliberately supplies misleading information to a prosecutor that influences the decision to prosecute may be liable for malicious prosecution.

DeLoach v. Bevers, 922 F.2d 618, 621 (10th Cir. 1990).

Abuse of Process

Generally

Plaintiff has also brought a claim of malicious prosecution against the Defendants, Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta. In order to prove his claim against the Defendants, the Plaintiff does not need to show an improper motive in bringing the legal proceedings against him. However, he must show that it became a vehicle to promote an ulterior, wrongful purpose for which it was not designed.

Butera v. Boucher, 798 A.2d 340, 353 (R.I. 2002).

42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Equal Protection)

Generally

Plaintiff has also brought a separate Section 1983 claim against the Defendants Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta, alleging another type of denial of his Constitutional Rights. In this claim, the Plaintiff is alleging that these Defendants had behaved towards him as they did because of the Plaintiff's race (Hispanic). If this allegation is true, then the Defendants are liable for violation of the right to equal protection under the laws. The right to equal protection under the laws, regardless of race, is guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution.

The Plaintiff must show that the Defendants acted with an intention or purpose to discriminate against him due to his race.

Washington v. Davis, 426 U.S. 229, 239-40, 96 S.Ct. 2040, 2047-48, 48 L.Ed.2d 597 (1976).

Proof of Discriminatory Intent

A direct showing of discriminatory intent is not always necessary to make out an equal protection claim. Under ordinary equal protection standards, a claimant may provide discriminatory purpose circumstantially.

Arlington Heights v. Metropolitan Housing Development Corp., 429 U.S. 252, 266, 97 S.Ct. 555, 563, 50 L.Ed.2d. 405 (1977)

Racial Harassment/Intimidation, R.I.G.L. § 9-1-35

In addition his Section 1983 claim, the Plaintiff has brought a claim against Defendants Jeannette, Papa, and Pazzetta under Rhode Island's statutes prohibiting racial harassment and intimidation, R.I.G.L. § 9-1-35. In order to establish his claim under R.I.G.L. § 9-1-35, the Plaintiff must show he was subjected to an act or acts that a reasonable person would

construe as intended to harass and intimidate him due to his race.

Racial Profiling Prevention Act, R.I.G.L. § 31-21.2-1 et seq.

In addition to his Section 1983 claim, the Plaintiff has brought a claim under Rhode Island's Racial Profiling Prevention Act, R.I.G.L. § 31-21.2-1 *et seq*. In order to prove his claim under R.I.G.L. § 31-21.2-1, the Plaintiff must show that he was detained, interdicted, or otherwise treated in a disparate manner based upon his race.

Damages

Compensatory Damages

If you find for the Plaintiff on liability, he is entitled to recover compensatory damages. Compensatory damages are designed to reasonably and fairly compensate the Plaintiff for any harm that which the wrongful conduct of the defendants was a substantial factor in bringing about.

Among the elements of injury and harm which you consider are:

- 1. The loss of past earnings and impairment of future earning capacity.
- 2. The reasonable expense for property damaged or destroyed.
- 3. The reasonable expense of legal services required and received by the Plaintiff to defend and clear himself.
- 4. The physical harm to the Plaintiff during and after the injury, including ill health, physical pain, disability, disfigurement, or discomfort, and any such physical pain, disability, and discomfort which the plaintiff will, with reasonable certainty, suffer in the future.
- 5. The reasonable expense of medical or psychological care, treatment, and services required and received by the Plaintiff in connection with his physical and psychological injuries, and the expenses for medical or psychological care that will be reasonably incurred in the future.
- 6. The emotional and mental harm to the plaintiff during and after the incident, including fear, humiliation, and mental anguish, and any emotional harm, fear, or mental anguish that the Plaintiff will, with reasonable certainty, suffer in the future.
- 7. The extent and duration of the injuries, including their continuation in the future.

Interest

If you have determined that compensatory damages should be awarded to the plaintiff, you must also decide whether to award interest. Whether you do award interest should depend upon whether you conclude that interest is necessary to compensate the plaintiff fully for any injury suffered, bearing in mind that the plaintiff has not had the use of damages you award during the time this litigation has been pending.

If you do award interest, the actual sum will be computed by the clerk at the rate provided by law.

Furtado v. Bishop, 604 F.2d 80 (1st Cir. 1979).

Nominal Damages

If you find that the Defendants violated Plaintiff's rights, but that Plaintiff was not injured, you may still award nominal damages, that is, damages in the amount of \$1.00.

David v. District of Columbia, 158 F.3d 1342, 1349 (D.C.Cir. 1998) (quoting *Carey v. Piphus*, 435 U.S. 247, 266-67, 98 S.Ct. 1042, 1053-54, 55 L.2d.2d 252 (1978)

Punitive Damages

Punitive damages are different from compensatory damages. Compensatory damages are intended to make the Plaintiff whole for his losses. Punitive damages, on the other hand, are intended to punish a party whose wrongful conduct was malicious or intentional and to deter it and others from similar extreme conduct.

Because the intention is to punish rather than make whole, punitive damages may be awarded even if the Plaintiff actual damages to the plaintiff were very small, or only nominal.

You may award punitive damages only if the defendant acted with malice, wantonness or willfulness of such an extreme nature as to amount to criminality which, for the good of society and as a warning to individuals, ought to be punished. You should award punitive damages only if defendant's conduct requires deterrence and punishment over and above that provided by an award of compensatory damages.

You may consider a defendant's wealth in determining the appropriate amount of punitive damages. Nevertheless, the amount of punitive damages you award must reasonably relate to:

- a) the character and degree of defendant's wrongful conduct;
- b) the amount of compensatory damages which you award; and
- c) the impact of the punitive damages on third parties.

BMW of North America, Inc. v. Gore, 517 U.S. 559 (1996); Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Co. v. Haship, 499 U.S. 1 (1991); Emery-Waterhouse Co. v. Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank, 757 F.2d 399, 410 (1st Cir. 1985); Palmisano v. Toth, 624 A.2d 314, 317-318 (R.I. 1993); Morin v. Aetna Casualty and Surety Co., 478 A.2d 964, 967 (R.I. 1984).

JURY INSTRUCTION FORM

VERDICT FORM

We, the jury, answer the questions submitted as follows:

Section I: 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Fourth Amendment – Excessive Force)

1. L

2.

	• •		,
Lia	ability		
D	o you find that any o	ne of these def	endants subjected Plaintiff to excessive force?
	Jeannette	Yes	No
	Papa	Yes	No
	Pazzetta	Yes	No
	Newton	Yes	No
		_	preceding question be "no," then you need mages to the plaintiff. Proceed to Section II.
	proceed to answer t	he following q	preceding question be "yes," then you must uestions relating to damages. Answer only the ar defendants you have found to be liable.
D	amages		
a.	Nominal Damage		
	to prove any specificompensation for the required. Indicate be	c damages, you be violation itse elow the amoun	endants were liable, but that plaintiff has failed a may award nominal damages as elf. Such an award of nominal damages is not nts (not to exceed one dollar) to be paid by eviously found to be liable to the plaintiff.
	<u>Defendants</u>		
	Jeannette	\$	
	Papa	\$	
	Pazzetta	\$	
	Newton	\$	

c.

b. Compensatory Damages

i.		fer any actual injurie have previously foun 	d to be liable to the	es caused by any of the ne plaintiff?
	Should your ans answer the follo	-	bove "yes," then	you must proceed to
ii.	total amount of the amounts to b	compensatory damag be paid by each defer blaintiff. Also detern	ges awarded to the adant whom you h	ner damages, state the e plaintiff and indicate have previously found to will award the plaintiff
	<u>Defendants</u>			
	Jeanette	\$		Interest? yesno
	Papa	\$		Interest? yesno
	Pazzetta	\$		Interest? yesno
	Newton	\$		Interest? yesno
<u>Pu</u>	nitive Damages			
i.	wantonness or w	the conduct of any or the conduct of any or the good of so shed?	extreme nature a	s to amount to
	Jeannette	Yes	No	
	Papa	Yes	No	
	Pazzetta	Yes	No	
	Newton	Yes	No	

ii. State the appropriate amount of punitive damages for each defendant:

	Jeane	tte	\$			
	Papa		\$			
	Pazze	etta	\$			
	Newt	on	\$			
	Go to	Section II.				
Section II: A		200001111				
	ability					
1, 131	·	that any one of t	these defendants	assaulted	Plaintiff?	
	•	•			i i iamitiii.	
	Jeannette	Yes		_ No		
	Papa	Yes		_ No		
	Pazzetta	Yes		_ No		
	Newton	Yes		_ No		
		•	to the preceding ard damages to t	_		•
	proceed to a	iswer the follow	to the preceding ving questions re articular defende	elating to	damages.	Answer only the
2. Da	amages					
a.	Nominal Dar	<u>nage</u>				
	to prove any compensatio required. Ind	specific damage n for the violation licate below the	ne defendants we es, you may awa on itself. Such an amounts (not to ave previously fo	ord nomina n award o exceed or	al damages f nominal c ne dollar) to	as lamages is not o be paid by
	Defendar	<u>nts</u>				
	Ieann	ette \$				

	Papa	\$		
	Pazzetta	\$		
	Newton	\$		
b.	Compensatory Damag	<u>es</u>		
	-	•	ther damages caused by any or eliable to the plaintiff?	of the
	Should your answer to the following question	*	"yes," then you must proceed	l to answer
	amount of compensato	ory damages awarded	juries or other damages, stated to the plaintiff and indicated myou have previously found	the
	<u>Defendants</u>			
	Jeannette	\$		
	Papa	\$		
	Pazzetta	\$		
	Newton	\$		
c.	Punitive Damages			
	wantonness or will	fulness of such an exfor the good of socie	the defendants acted with ma extreme nature as to amount to ety and as a warning to indivi)
	Jeannette	Yes	No	
	Papa	Yes	No	
	Pazzetta	Yes	No	

;; S t	Newton	Y			No s for each defendant:
п. эт	ate the appropri	ate amount (or pumuv	e damages	s for each defendant.
	Jeannette	\$			_
	Papa	\$			_
	Pazzetta	\$		 	_
	Newton	\$			_
	Go to Section	III.			
ection III: Batter 1. Liability Do you fi		of these def	endants c	ommitted	a battery on the Plaintiff?
Jeann	ette	Yes		No	
Papa		Yes		No	
Pazze	etta	Yes		No	
Newt	on	Yes		No	
					e "no," then you need no oceed to Section IV.
proceed t	o answer the fo	llowing que	estions re	lating to d	be "yes," then you must amages. Answer only the we found to be liable.

2. Damages

a. Nominal Damage

If you find that that any of the defendants were liable, but that plaintiff has failed to prove any specific damages, you may award nominal damages as compensation for the violation itself. Such an award of nominal damages is not required. Indicate below the amounts (not to exceed one dollar) to be paid by each defendant whom you have previously found to be liable to the plaintiff.

	Defe	<u>ndants</u>		
	Je	eanette	\$	
	P	apa	\$	
	P	azzetta	\$	
	N	lewton	\$	
b.	Com	pensatory Dai	mages	
defe	-	ts you have p	y actual injuries or other reviously found to be liaNo	damages caused by any of the able to the plaintiff?
		our answer to wing question		s," then you must proceed to answer
amo	ount o	of compensate	ory damages awarded to	es or other damages, state the total the plaintiff and indicate the ou have previously found to be
	Defe	<u>ndants</u>		
	Je	eannette	\$	
	P	apa	\$	
	P	azzetta	\$	
	N	lewton	\$	
a.	<u>Punit</u>	ive Damages		
	W C1	antonness or	willfulness of such an exich, for the good of socie	the defendants acted with malice, extreme nature as to amount to ety and as a warning to individuals,
	Je	eannette	Yes	No

	Papa		_ Yes		No
	Pazzetta		_ Yes		No
	Newton		_ Yes		No
ii.	State the appro	priate ar	nount of punit	ive damaş	ges for each defendant:
	Jeannette		\$		
	Papa		\$		
	Pazzetta		\$		
	Newton		\$		

Go to Section IV.

Section IV: False Arrest

1. Liability

Do you find that any one of these defendants falsely arrested Plaintiff?

Jeannette	Yes	No
Papa	Yes	No
Pazzetta	Yes	No

Should all of your answers to the preceding question be "no," then you need not consider whether to award damages to the plaintiff. Proceed to Section V.

Should any of your answers to the preceding question be "yes," then you must proceed to answer the following questions relating to damages. Answer only the relevant questions for the particular defendants you have found to be liable.

2. Damages

a. Nominal Damage

If you find that that any of the defendants were liable, but that plaintiff has failed to prove any specific damages, you may award nominal damages as compensation for the violation itself. Such an award of nominal damages is not

required. Indicate below the amounts (not to exceed one dollar) to be paid by each defendant whom you have previously found to be liable to the plaintiff.

<u>De</u>	<u>fendants</u>		
	Jeannette	\$	
	Papa	\$	
	Pazzetta	\$	
b. <u>Co</u>	mpensatory Da	mages	
-		y actual injuries or other previously found to be li	damages caused by any of the able to the plaintiff?
	Yes	No	
	l your answer to lowing question		s," then you must proceed to answer
amoun amoun liable	nt of compensat nts to be paid by	ory damages awarded to veach defendant whom y	the plaintiff and indicate the you have previously found to be you will award the plaintiff interest
<u>De</u>	<u>fendants</u>		
	Jeannette	\$	
	Papa	\$	
	Pazzetta	\$	
c. <u>Pu</u>	nitive Damages	<u> </u>	
i.	wantonness or	willfulness of such an enich, for the good of soci	the defendants acted with malice, xtreme nature as to amount to ety and as a warning to individuals,
	Jeannette	Yes	No

Papa		Yes		_ No
Pazzet	ta	Yes		No
ii. State tl	ne appropriate	amount of pur	nitive dama	ges for each defendant:
Jeanet	te	\$		-
Papa		\$		-
Pazzet	ta	\$		-

Go to Section V.

Section V: Malicious Prosecution

1. Liability

Do you find the of Plaintiff?	nat any one of these d	lefendants engaged in a m	nalicious prosecution
Jeannette	Yes	No	
Papa	Yes	No	
Pazzetta	Yes	No	

Should all of your answers to the preceding question be "no," then you need not consider whether to award damages to the plaintiff. Proceed to Section VI.

Should any of your answers to the preceding question be "yes," then you must proceed to answer the following questions relating to damages. Answer only the relevant questions for the particular defendants you have found to be liable.

2. Damages

a. Nominal Damage

If you find that that any of the defendants were liable, but that plaintiff has failed to prove any specific damages, you may award nominal damages as compensation for the violation itself. Such an award of nominal damages is not required. Indicate below the amounts (not to exceed one dollar) to be paid by each defendant whom you have previously found to be liable to the plaintiff.

Defendants

	Jeannette	\$
	Papa	\$
	Pazzetta	\$
b. <u>Co</u>	ompensatory D	<u>amages</u>
-		ny actual injuries or other damages caused by any of the previously found to be liable to the plaintiff?
	Yes	No
	d your answer llowing questic	to the question above "yes," then you must proceed to answer on.
amour amour liable	nt of compensants to be paid b	tiff sustained actual injuries or other damages, state the total tory damages awarded to the plaintiff and indicate the y each defendant whom you have previously found to be. Also determine whether you will award the plaintiff interest
<u>De</u>	efendants	
	Jeannette	\$
	Papa	\$
	Pazzetta	\$
c. <u>Pu</u>	unitive Damage	<u>es</u>
i.	wantonness o	that the conduct of any of the defendants acted with malice, or willfulness of such an extreme nature as to amount to which, for the good of society and as a warning to individuals, unished?
	Jeannette	Yes No
	Papa	Yes No
	Pazzetta	Yes No

Section VI:

	ii. State the appropri	ate amount of	f punitive damages for each defendant:
	Jeannette	\$	
	Papa	\$	
	Pazzetta	\$	
Go	to Section VI.		
<u>[</u> : A	Abuse of Process		
1.	Liability		
			defendants engaged in legal process against the at for which it was designed?
	Jeannette	Yes	No
	Papa	Yes	No
	Pazzetta	Yes	No
			preceding question be "no," then you need mages to the plaintiff. Proceed to Section VII.
	proceed to answer th	e following q	e preceding question be "yes," then you must questions relating to damages. Answer only the lar defendants you have found to be liable.
2.	Damages		
	a. Nominal Damage	<u>2</u>	
	to prove any specific compensation for the required. Indicate be	damages, you violation itselow the amou	endants were liable, but that plaintiff has failed u may award nominal damages as elf. Such an award of nominal damages is not ents (not to exceed one dollar) to be paid by reviously found to be liable to the plaintiff.
	<u>Defendants</u>		
	Jeannette	\$	
	Papa	\$	

Pazzetta	\$	
b. <u>Compensatory D</u>	<u>amages</u>	
-	•	other damages caused by any of the be liable to the plaintiff?
Yes	No	
Should your answer the following question	<u>-</u>	e "yes," then you must proceed to answer
amount of compensa amounts to be paid b	tory damages awarde y each defendant wh	injuries or other damages, state the total ed to the plaintiff and indicate the nom you have previously found to be nether you will award the plaintiff interest
<u>Defendants</u>		
Jeannette	\$	
Papa	\$	
Pazzetta	\$	
wantonness of	that the conduct of ar or willfulness of such which, for the good of	ny of the defendants acted with malice, an extreme nature as to amount to f society and as a warning to individuals,
Jeannette	Yes	No
Papa	Yes	No
Pazzetta	Yes	No
ii. State the appr	opriate amount of pu	unitive damages for each defendant:
Jeannette	\$	

	Papa	\$		
	Pazzetta	\$		
(Go to Section VII.			
Section VII	: 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Eq	qual Protection	on)	
1.	Liability			
	Do you find that any or Plaintiff based upon his		fendants intentional	ly discriminated against
	Jeannette	Yes	No	
	Papa	Yes	No	
	Pazzetta	Yes	No	
	• •			be "no," then you need iff. Proceed to Section
	proceed to answer th	ne following q	questions relating to	n be "yes," then you must damages. Answer only the have found to be liable.
2.	Damages			
	a. Nominal Damag	<u>e</u>		
	to prove any specific compensation for the required. Indicate be	c damages, you violation itself to the amount of the amoun	ou may award nomin elf. Such an award o unts (not to exceed o	but that plaintiff has failed al damages as of nominal damages is not ne dollar) to be paid by e liable to the plaintiff.
	<u>Defendants</u>			
	Jeannette	\$		
	Papa	\$		

Pazzetta

\$_

i.	Did plaintiff suffer any actual injuries or other damages caused by any of the defendants you have previously found to be liable to the plaintiff?				
	Should your answer answer the following		ves," then you must proceed to		
ii.	the total amount of c indicate the amounts previously found to l	ompensatory damages a to be paid by each defe	Also determine whether you		
De	efendants				
	Jeannette	\$	Interest? yesno		
	Papa	\$	Interest? yesno		
	Pazzetta	\$	Interest? yesno		
c.	Punitive Damages				
i.	wantonness or willfu	lness of such an extrement the good of society an	efendants acted with malice, e nature as to amount to d as a warning to individuals,		
	Jeannette	Yes	No		
	Papa	Yes	_ No		
	Pazzetta	Yes	No		
ii.	State the appropriate	amount of punitive dam	ages for each defendant:		
	Jeannette	\$	_		
	Papa	\$	_		

	Pazzetta	\$		
	Go to Section VIII.			
Section V	III: Racial Harrassme	ent/Intimidati	on, R.I.G.L. § 9-1-35	
1.	Liability			
			efendants engaged in condu ment or intimidation based	
	Jeannette	Yes	No	
	Papa	Yes	No	
	Pazzetta	Yes	No	
2.	not consider wheth Should any of your proceed to answer	er to award d r answers to tl the following	e preceding question be "namages to the plaintiff. Property of the plaintiff. Property of the preceding question be "questions relating to dama alar defendants you have f	oceed to Section IX. yes," then you must iges. Answer only the
	a. Nominal Damage			
	to prove any specificompensation for trequired. Indicate by	fic damages, y he violation it below the amo	fendants were liable, but the ou may award nominal dan self. Such an award of nom unts (not to exceed one dol previously found to be liable	nages as inal damages is not lar) to be paid by
	<u>Defendants</u>			
	Jeannette	\$		
	Papa	\$		
	Pazzetta	\$		

b. Compensatory Damages

i.	Did plaintiff suffer any actual injuries or other damages caused by any of the defendants you have previously found to be liable to the plaintiff?						
	Yes	No					
	Should your answer to answer the following		es," then you must proceed to				
ii.	the total amount of co- indicate the amounts previously found to b	ompensatory damages a to be paid by each defer	Also determine whether you				
De	efendants						
	Jeannette	\$	_				
	Papa	\$	_				
	Pazzetta	\$	_				
a.	Punitive Damages						
i	i. Do you find that the conduct of any of the defendants acted with malice, wantonness or willfulness of such an extreme nature as to amount to criminality which, for the good of society and as a warning to individuals, ought to be punished?						
	Jeannette	Yes	_ No				
	Papa	Yes	_ No				
	Pazzetta	Yes	_ No				
ii.	State the appropriate	amount of punitive dam	nages for each defendant:				
	Jeannette	\$	_				
	Papa	\$	_				

Pazzetta

Go to Section IX.

Section IX: Racial Profiling Prevention Act, R.I.G.L. 31-21.2-1 et seq.

4	•	•		• 1	•	
1.		₄ia	ıh	ш	т	tτ
1.	_	/1 C	w	υ.	ш	ιy

1.	Liability						
	Do you find that any one of these defendants detained, interdicted, or otherwise treated Plaintiff in a disparate manner based upon his race?						
	Jeannette		Yes		_ No		
	Papa		Yes		_ No		
	Pazzetta		Yes		_ No		
	Should all of not consider v						
		swer the j	following qu	estions r	elating to d	amages. A	hen you must nswer only the to be liable.
2.	Damages						
	a. Nominal Damage						
	If you find the to prove any secompensation required. Indicate the each defendant	specific d for the v cate belov	amages, you iolation itsel w the amoun	may awa f. Such an its (not to	rd nominal n award of r exceed one	damages a nominal da dollar) to	amages is not be paid by
	Defendant	t <u>s</u>					
	Jeanne	ette \$	S		_		
	Papa	\$)		_		
	Pazzet	ta §	S		_		

b. Compensatory Damages

i. Did plaintiff suffer any actual injuries or other damages caused by any of the defendants you have previously found to be liable to the plaintiff?

	Yes	_	No	
		r answer to the questi following question.	on above "yes," th	nen you must proceed to
ii	the total ame indicate the previously f	ount of compensatory amounts to be paid b	y damages awarde by each defendant he plaintiff. Also	whom you have determine whether you
<u>D</u>	<u>Pefendants</u>			
	Jeannette	\$		
	Papa	\$		
	Pazzetta	\$		
c. <u>P</u>	unitive Damag	<u>ges</u>		
i	wantonness	or willfulness of such which, for the good o	h an extreme natur	nts acted with malice, re as to amount to warning to individuals,
	Jeannette	Yes	No	
	Papa	Yes	No	
	Pazzetta	Yes	No	
ii	. State the app	propriate amount of p	ounitive damages f	or each defendant:
	Ieannette	\$		

Papa

Pazzetta